race. Especially in women. I have just had a frightful scene with my wife. Please excuse me, sir, if I am still all upset by it. Something that I was reproaching her with (in the midst of a discussion), something she did six years ago, she now says no, she never did it. And with the greatest assurance, without blushing, with such a complete absence of embarrassment that I am absolutely flabbergasted. It was all a question of a subscription to a box at the Theatre-Frangais."

"Yes," I say, "you have already spoken to me about that incident.'*

"Well, she denies it now."

"What! She denies having had that box at the theater?''

"No. She denies having asked me to help her pay for it. Really if it were to her interest to say that this armchair, this one here, is a pair of slippers, she would do so; she would maintain it. If God is to judge us according to our intentions — Suddenly I left the room; my hands were clenched: I was on the point of strangling her. Do you know what she said to me? . . . She told me: Tour grandchildren despise you/"

"She had lost all self-control and was only aiming to hurt you."

"To hurt me, yes. I am crazy to attach any importance to it. . . . She told me: 'Moreover, Sir, everybody makes fun of you and despises you/ ”

Touching his arm, I say:

"You know, don't you, that that is untrue?"

"I know; I know; I am even embarrassed by the affection and respect that some people show me/*

"No one," I say, "has greater affection and respect for you than I have/'

There followed a long silence. He held my hand in his. We didn't dare look at each other, for neither one of us had been able to check his tears. Finally I risk asking him:

"You were very young when you married her?"

"Yes . . . I was young."

Written a few notes on Bloy. Worked on *La Route etroite*[20] the correction of *Paludes.* Went back to Baudelaire with the greatest pleasure.

*Irony considered as a -form of maceration.* Very important

*10 July*

The Jacques Copeaus left us at eleven o'clock It is now three. In two hours I myself leave. Tomorrow I lunch at the Van Rysselberghes', go to visit the house again with them, etc. . . . Gerard takes his first law examinations in two days.

The pleasure I derived from talking with Jacques Copeau was very

[20] The title of *La Porte etroite* was not yet definitely decided upon, [E.J